

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12. **Canceled**

13. (**Currently Amended**) A binding selected from the group consisting of a ski binding, a touring ski binding, a telemark ski binding, and a cross-country ski binding, for securing a ski boot comprising a leg and a sole, said binding having

——a front retaining element operatively associated in use with the front end of the sole,

——a rear retaining element formed to engage on an element selected from the group consisting of the foresole and the heel of the ski boot, and

——a biasing device operative between said front and rear retaining elements, by means of which the ski boot is clampable between the front and rear retaining elements in such a manner that the heel thereof is freely liftable,

wherein

said front retaining element is pivotally mounted relative to the binding and the ski on the one hand, and relative to said rear retaining element on the other hand, about an axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the binding and sole and approximately parallel to the sole tread, and said rear retaining element is pivotally mounted about an axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the binding and sole or ski and approximately parallel to the sole tread and to the top face of the ski,

and-wherein

said front retaining element is a bracket which engages over the front end of the sole of the ski boot, which bracket is pivotally mounted on the binding, about a horizontally extending transverse axis, both relative to the binding and to a component selected from the group consisting of a mounting plate associated therewith, and a housing associated therewith, and relative to the rear retaining element, and in which the pivotal axis for the rear retaining element coincides with the pivotal axis for the front retaining element;

and wherein

said rear retaining element is fixable in the open position of the binding, the fixation being releasable on stepping into the binding by means of a step-in mechanism.

14. **(Previously presented)** The binding according to claim 13, wherein arranged between the rear retaining element and the front retaining element is a device selected from the group consisting of a biasing device, and a spring biasing device..

15. **Canceled**

16. **Canceled**

17. **(Currently amended)** The binding according to claim 13, further comprising wherein at the rear end of a connecting member having a front end and a rear end, wherein said connecting member which is pivotally mounted about a horizontal transverse axis, wherein the rear retaining element is mounted at the rear end of said connecting member so as to be longitudinally displaceable, the pivotal axis of said connecting member defining the pivotal axis associated with the said rear retaining element.

18. **(Previously presented)** The binding according to claim 17, wherein the connecting member is a plate which is flexurally resilient in the longitudinal section plane of the binding.

19. **(Previously presented)** The binding according to claim 18, wherein said biasing device is arranged on the said connecting member.

20. **(Previously presented)** The binding according to claim 13, wherein by means of an operating mechanism, the said rear retaining element is movable against the action of said biasing device into the open position.

21. **(Previously presented)** The binding according to claim 13, wherein the said rear retaining element comprises an element selected from the group consisting of a retaining cable, a retaining bracket, and a retaining bracket which engages on the underside of the foresole.

22. **(Currently amended)** The A binding according to claim 13 selected from the group consisting of a ski binding, a touring ski binding, a telemark ski binding, and a cross-country ski binding, for securing a ski boot comprising a leg and a sole, said binding having a front retaining element operatively associated in use with the front end of the sole,

a rear retaining element formed to engage on an element selected from the group consisting of the foresole and the heel of the ski boot, and

a biasing device operative between said front and rear retaining elements, by means of which the ski boot is clampable between the front and rear retaining elements in such a manner that the heel thereof is freely liftable,

wherein

said front retaining element is pivotally mounted relative to the binding and the ski on the one hand, and relative to said rear retaining element on the other hand, about an axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the binding and sole and approximately parallel to the sole tread, and said rear retaining element is pivotally mounted about an axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the binding and sole or ski and approximately parallel to the sole tread and to the top face of the ski,

wherein

said front retaining element is a bracket which engages over the front end of the sole of the ski boot, which bracket is pivotally mounted on the binding, about a horizontally extending transverse axis, both relative to the binding and to a component selected from the group consisting of a mounting plate associated therewith, and a housing associated therewith, and relative to the rear retaining element, and in which the pivotal axis for the rear retaining element coincides with the pivotal axis for the front retaining element.

and

wherein the said rear retaining element comprises two jaws pivotable about approximately vertical axes, which jaws can be pivoted out laterally against the action of an element selected from the group consisting of a resilient element, a compression spring, and a torsion spring, to release the ski boot laterally.

23. (Currently amended) The A binding according to claim 13 selected from the group consisting of a ski binding, a touring ski binding, a telemark ski binding, and a cross-country ski binding, for securing a ski boot comprising a leg and a sole, said binding having

a front retaining element operatively associated in use with the front end of the sole,

a rear retaining element formed to engage on an element selected from the group consisting of the foresole and the heel of the ski boot, and

a biasing device operative between said front and rear retaining elements, by means of which the ski boot is clampable between the front and rear retaining elements in such a manner that the heel thereof is freely liftable,

wherein

said front retaining element is pivotally mounted relative to the binding and the ski on the one hand, and relative to said rear retaining element on the other hand, about an axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the binding and sole and approximately parallel to the sole tread, and said rear retaining element is pivotally mounted about an axis which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the binding and sole or ski and approximately parallel to the sole tread and to the top face of the ski,

wherein

said front retaining element is a bracket which engages over the front end of the sole of the ski boot, which bracket is pivotally mounted on the binding, about a horizontally extending transverse axis, both relative to the binding and to a component selected from the group consisting of a mounting plate associated therewith, and a housing associated therewith, and relative to the rear retaining element, and in which the pivotal axis for the rear retaining element coincides with the pivotal axis for the front retaining element.

and

wherein there is associated with the front retaining element, in front of the pivotal axis thereof, a resilient element between which element and the portion of the front retaining element that engages over the front end of the sole the front end of the sole can be placed, the resilient element being removable if required.

24. (Previously presented) The binding according to claim 13, wherein the front retaining element is formed in the manner of a pivotally mounted toe bail.